GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:630
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Attack on African Nationals in India
Singh Shri Hukum

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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(a) whether African diplomats have boycotted some events scheduled by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) recently in Delhi and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government did an outreach event with African students along with concerned embassies to reassure them of safety and would meet the African Heads of Mission every three months and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the African Group of Heads of Mission also decided to recommend to their Government not to send new students to India due to stereotyping and racial prejudice due to the recent murder of the Congolese students in India and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the present status of the safety and security of African nationals in India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M.J. AKBAR)

(a) No. African diplomats did not boycott some events scheduled by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) recently in Delhi. African diplomats participated in the "Africa Day" celebrations organized by ICCR on 26 May 2016.

(b) Yes, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Minister of State for External Affairs and senior officials met African diplomatic and student community to assure them of their safety and security. Minister of State of External Affairs would be having a quarterly meeting with the African Heads of Mission.

(c) No. It has not come to our notice. African Heads of Mission have expressed their appreciation for the prompt action taken by Government of India related to recent spontaneous and isolated incidents against members of the African community.

(d) The State governments, having large numbers of African nationals, have been requested to take steps to ensure their safety and security and to increase police patrolling in areas where sizeable African community resides. It has also been decided to hold regular meetings with the African community in all major metropolitan cities.